

## Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-12 SS-14 NSC-10 DODE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01

/127 W

----- 078219

P 010930 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9861

DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0394

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS NATO LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN ATTACK ON C-130

REF: STATE 056653

THE ACCOUNT OF LIBYAN ATTACK ON U. S. C-130  
PRESENTED REFTEL RAISES A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS THAT  
WE SUGGEST SHOULD BE CLARIFIED OR MORE CAREFULLY  
PHRASED BEFORE THE INCIDENT IS SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED  
WITH OTHER GOVTS IN A NATO CONTEXT, NOT TO MENTION  
THE BILATERAL OR POSSIBLE UN CONTEXTS:

A. ROUTE OF C-130 PREVIOUS TO ITS INTERCEPTION.

B. DEFINITION OF " INTERCEPTION" AND WHERE IT  
OCCURRED.

C. POSITION OF FIRING " APPROXIMATELY 104 NM  
NORTHEAST OF TRIPOLI, LIBYA, AND 83 NM AT THE CLOSEST  
POINT OFF LIBYAN COAST". ASSUME REFERENCE IS TO  
104 NM FROM TRIPOLI VOR REPEAT VOR, AT TIA,  
WHICH IS ABOUT 17 NM INLAND FROM COAST TO  
NORTHEAST ( I. E. FROM ' UQBA AIR BASE). OTHERWISE  
SECRET

SECRET

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THE REFERENCE TO 83 NM FROM COAST IS WAY OFF. IF  
OUR ASSUMPTION CORRECT, FIRING OCCURRED AT ABOUT 80  
REPEAT 80 NM OFF NEAREST POINT OF COAST ( A POINT  
ABOUT 33 NM EAST OF TRIPOLI).

D. LIBYAN UNAWARENESS OF NATIONALITY OF TARGET.  
PERHAPS THERE ARE TACTICAL REASONS TO INDICATE  
THIS, BUT THEY ESCAPE US. NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE  
REASONS TO BELIEVE IN LIBYAN AWARENESS, SO DO  
THE GREEKS AND FRENCH. DON' T WE STAND TO LOSE  
CREDIBILITY, AND WEAKEN OUR CASE AGAINST LARG, IF  
WE BLINK AT THE CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE THE LARAF  
KNEW WHAT IT WAS DOING ( BUT NATURALLY WAS NOT SAYING  
SO FOR ALL TO HEAR)?  
JOSIF

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973TRIPOL00394  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** TRIPOLI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730431/aaaahjpo.tel  
**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 056653  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971117  
**Subject:** LIBYAN ATTACK ON C-130  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, LY, n/a, NATO  
**To:** DOD WASHDC  
EUR  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005